



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Glaucia PARANHOS-BACCALA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1634

Application No.: 10/632,793

Examiner: S. BAUSCH

Filed: August 4, 2003

Docket No.: 110048.01

For: ENDOGENOUS NUCLEIC FRAGMENT ASSOCIATED WITH AN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE, LABELING METHOD AND REAGENT

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

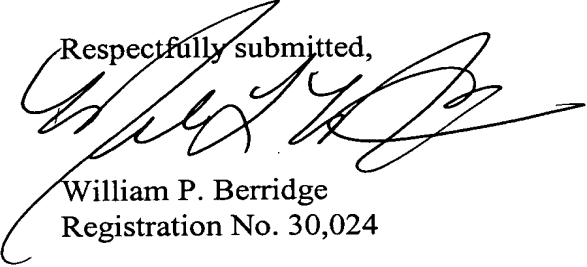
Sir:

In reply to the February 2, 2006 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-7, 16, 21 (transcription product), 37-40 and 44-48, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-48 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:MLM/jam

Date: February 24, 2006

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